

Routes to tour in Germany

The German Alpine Route

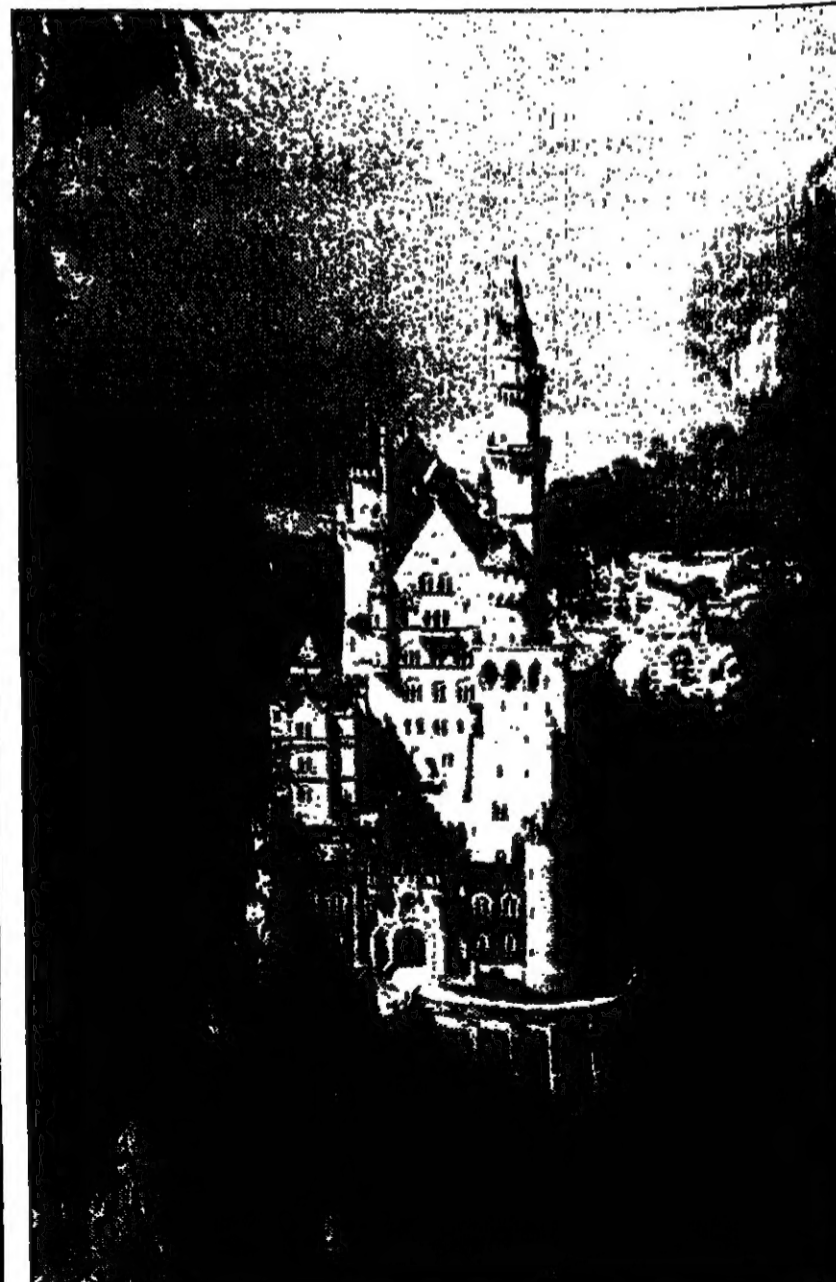
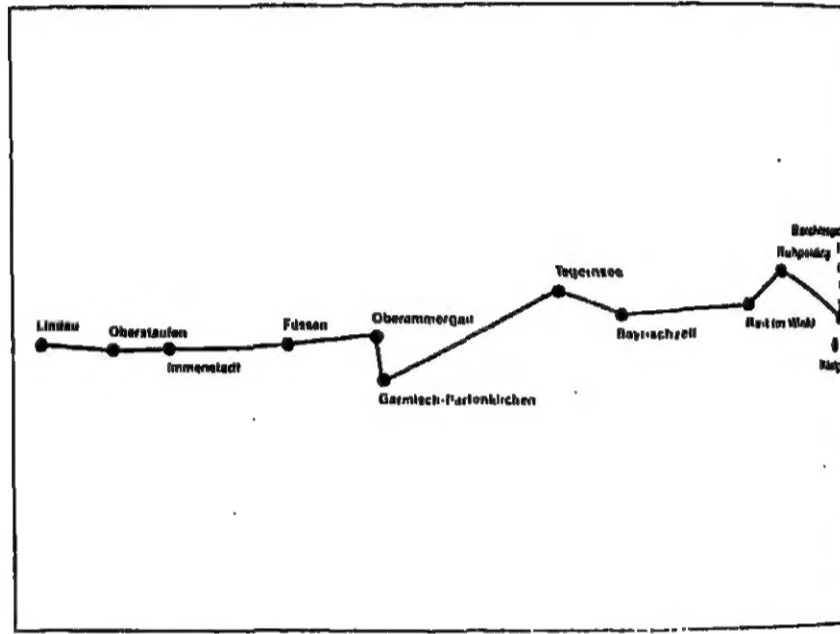
German roads will get you there — so why not try the Alpine foothills with their impressive view of the Alps in silhouette? The route we recommend is 290 miles long. From it, at altitudes of up to 3,300 ft, you can see well into the mountains.

In Germany's deep south viewpoints everywhere beckon you to stop and look. From Lindau on Lake

Constance you pass through the western Allgäu plateau to the Allgäu uplands and the Berchtesgaden region. Spas and mountain villages off the beaten track are easily reached via side roads. Winter sports resorts such as Garmisch-Partenkirchen and the Zugspitze, Germany's tallest peak, or Berchtesgaden and the Watzmann must not be missed. Nor must Neuschwanstein, with its fairytale castle, or Oberammergau, home of the world-famous Passion Play. Visit Germany and let the Alpine Route be your guide.

- 1 Oberammergau
- 2 Königssee
- 3 Lindau
- 4 Neuschwanstein Castle

DZT DEUTSCHE ZENTRALE FÜR TOURISMUS EV.
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Superpowers both need cooled-down Lebanon

Allgemeine Zeitung

Beneath the cedars of Lebanon the flames of a war that is as pointless as it is undeclared blaze brightly.

Shiites and Druzes fight with arms from abroad against the ascendancy of the Christians.

Syrian and Israeli troops are based in Lebanon: the one because President Assad has visions of a Greater Syria, the other because Israel aims at forward defence of its northern border threatened from Lebanon.

America and Russia, the superpowers, are indirectly involved but have so far taken good care to ensure that their commitments on behalf of their respective protégés don't lead to clashes between their own forces in the area.

In spite of this cautious crisis management in Moscow and Washington further developments in Lebanon are unpredictable and thus dangerous further afield than the Middle East.

Any realignment of power in Lebanon to the advantage of Israel's Islamic enemies can spell a threat to Israel's very survival.

So it could lead to military moves aimed at providing clearance but entailing incalculable consequences for the closely-meshed network and economic ties between the oil states and Europe.

Due to the debate on missile modernisation in Central Europe, the months of guesswork about Mr Andropov's illness and waiting to see who might emerge as the new Kremlin leader the Lebanon crisis at times took a back-seat role in world affairs.

The collapse only became obvious when the 1,600 US marines got into a hopeless situation and President Giscard d'Estaing was left with no option but to try to carry on governing from the fortifications of his Presidential palace.

America had to admit it had miscalculated the situation and balance of power.

In the 1950s President Eisenhower sent nearly 20,000 US marines to pacify the country and restore Western-style government.

Even then Lebanon continued to be shaken by crises. The contrasting interests of the various creeds and communities could only be kept in check temporarily.

Extremist trends, with external backing, continually came to the fore. The strongest influence on domestic developments has always been from Syria, which Israel trying in vain to counteract it supporting the Christians.

The only way to find out for sure what

further course the situation might take in Lebanon is to make inquiries in Damascus.

Anyone who is not directly involved in the Lebanon fighting and would like to mediate or exercise a moderating effect will have to try and come to terms with President Assad.

Bavarian Prime Minister Franz Josef Strauss, a recent visitor to the Syrian capital, may not have coordinated his visit with the Bonn government but in principle he went to the right capital.

It was a tricky mission, however, and one can but wonder why the CSU leader did not check with the Bonn Cabinet, which he and his party support, before accepting the Syrian invitation.

It doesn't speak well for the internal cohesion and external credibility of a coalition when such spectacular diplomatic moves are made by a leading member of the coalition and then publicly disowned by both the Chancellor and the Foreign Minister.

A mission that basically was to the point has thus quite unnecessarily been discredited.

What may now happen in Lebanon? Syria is likely to set its cap at stabilising its influence on the future government.

But President Assad will probably avoid a merger to form a Greater Syria so as not to force Israel, and with it the United States, to resort to counter-measures.

The superpowers continue to share an interest in preventing the flames in Beirut from spreading throughout the Middle East.

Moscow accordingly retains control over the large-size missiles it has set up in Syria, while Washington steers clear of a full-scale invasion of Lebanon in spite of occasional bomb raids.

Vietnam and Afghanistan are deterrent examples for both superpowers of even the largest military power being driven from one defeat to the next by determined guerrillas in difficult terrain.

In addition to this shared experience the two nuclear giants must also feel



Looking for unity

European Union was one of the main topics when Bonn Chancellor Helmut Kohl (right) met Belgian Prime Minister Wilfried Martens in Brussels. See story below.

(Photo: AP)

they share another reality. The holy war declared by Ayatollah Khomeini in Iran is aimed at them both, without distinction.

What is going on in Lebanon can from Syria's viewpoint be explained as politically and historically justifiable intervention.

Khomeini sees it as part of the general uprising of the Arab-Islamic world he has called into being against alienation by the rich industrialised countries of Europe and America.

He has combined a return to Islamic beliefs and the Islamic way of life with an appeal to fight the enemies of the true belief from Baghdad and Beirut to Jerusalem.

The danger of fighting spreading throughout the Middle East is caused less by President Assad in Damascus, with his Greater Syrian designs, or by the parties to conflict in Lebanon itself.

The greatest threat is posed by the fanatical hara-kiri corps of Shiite Moslems who at Khomeini's behest aim to carry the green flag of Mohammed to Jerusalem and against Israel.

Hermann Dexheimer

(Allgemeine Zeitung Mainz, 18 February 1984)

Europe again searches for some cash

Europe is going begging again. Sessions of the Council of Ministers in Paris and Brussels are embarking on yet another of the innumerable bids to realign EEC contributions and tap fresh sources of cash for the Common Market.

Bonn Finance Minister Gerhard Stoltenberg is one of the most anxious observers of their progress.

Last summer Chancellor Kohl put together an EEC decision-making package consisting of European Community membership for Spain and Portugal, a partial reform of the Common Agricultural Policy, a reduction in the European steel industry's capacity and the provision of extra Common Market funds.

This package includes the most important factor that may break the bounds of Herr Stoltenberg's budget plans for 1985 and the years thereafter.

The Bonn budget is likely to face additional European expenditure totalling several billion Deutschmarks a year, and President Mitterrand of France is sure to go all-out to reach a decision on the package while France is in the EEC chair.

As the Germans are the main supporters of Spanish and Portuguese membership they will not for long be able to resist pressure to increase from 1 to 1.4 per cent the national value-added tax revenue payable to the EEC in Brussels.

The difference is DM4bn a year as far Continued on page 3

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